

In re: Robert C. Hightower  
Application No.: 10/602,899  
Filed: June 24, 2003  
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Please replace all previous claim listings with the following claim listing:

**In the Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A protective device useful for shielding a corner of an object from damage during shipping, storage and/or handling comprising:
  - a top member having an inner portion, an outer portion and a side portion;
  - an inner wall connected to and extending downwardly from the inner portion of the top member;
  - an outer wall connected to and extending downwardly from the outer portion of the top member and located opposite the inner wall;
  - a side wall connected to and extending downwardly from the side portion of the top member;
  - wherein the side wall and the outer wall merge to form an acute angle,
  - wherein a portion of the inner wall adjacent the side wall includes a cutout portion that forms a recessed opening into a cavity defined by the inner wall, the outer wall and the side wall.
2. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 1, wherein the protective device further comprises a raised lip that extends upwardly from the top member along at least a portion of the periphery of the top member.
3. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 2, wherein the raised lip extends around the entire periphery of the top member.
4. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 2, wherein the protective device further comprises at least one rib disposed on a top surface of the top member.
5. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 4, wherein the at least one rib extends from a portion of the raised lip disposed above the outer wall to a portion of the raised lip disposed above the inner wall.
6. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 1, wherein the acute angle is approximately 67 degrees.

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7. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 1, wherein the acute angle is approximately 45 degrees.

8. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 1, wherein the protective device includes indicia indicating the side of the object on which the protective device is to be used.

9. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 1, wherein the length of the inner wall is different than the length of the outer wall.

10. (Currently Amended) A protective device according to Claim 1, wherein the cutout portion of the inner wall ~~that is recessed~~ is an end portion of the inner wall.

11. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 1, wherein the protective device is integrally formed of polymeric material.

12. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 11, wherein the protective device is formed from injection molded thermoplastic material.

13. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 1, wherein the inner wall and outer wall define a channel that resides below a lower surface of the top member and receives a wall of the object.

14. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 13, wherein the inner wall and the outer wall are resilient.

15. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 14, wherein the channel has a width that is slightly less than the width of the wall that forms part of the corner of the object that is to be protected, such that the inner wall and the outer wall form an interference fit with the wall when the wall is received within the channel.

16. (Currently Amended) A corner protector useful for shielding a corner of an object from damage during shipping, storage and/or handling comprising:  
an outer wall for protecting a first outside edge of the object;  
an inner wall located opposite the outer wall and extending substantially parallel to the outer wall;

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a side wall for protecting a second outside edge of the object, the side wall connecting the outer wall to the inner wall;

a top member disposed between and connected to at least one of the outer wall, the inner wall and the side wall,

wherein a portion of the inner wall adjacent the side wall includes a cutout portion that forms is recessed to form an opening into a cavity defined by the inner wall, the outer wall and the side wall.

17. (Previously Presented) A corner protector according to Claim 16, wherein the side wall and the outer wall connect to form an acute angle and wherein the side wall and the inner wall connect to form an obtuse angle.

18. (Original) A corner protector according to Claim 16, wherein the top member is substantially perpendicular to the outer wall, the inner wall and the side wall.

19. (Original) A corner protector according to Claim 18, wherein the outer wall, the inner wall, and the side wall extend above a top surface of the top member to form a ridge around the periphery of the top member.

20. (Original) A corner protector according to Claim 19, wherein a plurality of support ribs are provided on the top surface of the top member that connect the outer wall to the inner wall.

21. (Original) A corner protector according to Claim 20, wherein at least one support rib is provided on the top surface of the top member that connects the outer wall to the side wall.

22. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 17, wherein the acute angle is approximately 67 degrees.

23. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 17, wherein the acute angle is approximately 45 degrees.

24. (Cancelled)

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25. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 16, wherein the inner wall and outer wall are resilient and define a channel that runs below a lower surface of the top member.

26. (Original) A protective device according to Claim 25, wherein the channel has a width that is slightly less than the width of the wall that forms part of the corner of the object that is to be protected, such that the inner wall and the outer wall form an interference fit with the wall when the wall is received within the channel.

27. (Currently Amended) A protective device according to Claim ~~[[25]]~~ 1, wherein the inner wall and the outer wall are angled at least slightly such that the width of the channel narrows adjacent the distal ends of the inner wall and the outer wall.

28. (Currently Amended) A cabinet including at least one corner protector useful for shielding a corner of the cabinet from damage during shipping, storage and/or handling comprising:

an enclosure comprising a plurality of walls, wherein pairs of the walls merge to form a plurality of corners; and

a protective device comprising:

an outer wall for protecting the outside edge of one of the corners of the cabinet;

an inner wall located opposite the outer wall and extending substantially parallel to the outer wall;

a side wall that connects the outer wall to the inner wall;

a top member disposed between and connected to at least one of the outer wall, the inner wall and the side wall,

wherein the side wall and the outer wall define an acute angle and wherein the side wall and the inner wall define an obtuse angle.

29. (Currently Amended) A protective device useful for shielding a corner of an object from damage during shipping, storage or handling comprising:

a top member having an inner portion, an outer portion and a side portion;

an inner wall connected to and extending downwardly from the inner portion of the top member;

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an outer wall connected to and extending downwardly from the outer portion of the top member and located opposite the inner wall;

a side wall connected to and extending downwardly from the side portion of the top member;

wherein the side wall and the outer wall merge to form an acute angle,

wherein a portion of the inner wall adjacent the side wall is recessed to form an opening into a cavity defined by the inner wall, the outer wall and the side wall. A protective device according to Claim 1, wherein the portion of the inner wall that is recessed is a central portion of the inner wall so that the inner wall is divided into at least two separate segments.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (New) The cabinet of Claim 28, wherein the inner wall of the protective device comprises a substantially planar wall, and wherein the outer wall of the protective device comprises a substantially planar wall.